Claims 21-33 are pending in the application. Claims 21, 22, 25, 28, and 31 have been amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indicated allowability of all pending claims subject to being amended to address the 112 issues. Claims 21, 22, 25, 28, and 31 have been amended herein to remove a double pre-amble. Relevant claim limitations are now recited in the claim body. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are definite and clear. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner has any continuing concerns about patentability of the claimed invention, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 510-843-6200, ext 245.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

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Haruo Yawata
Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

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## BEFORE THE OFFICE OF ENROLLMENT AND DISCIPLINE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Expires: August 28, 2004

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Director of Enrollment and Discipline